US008145278B2

(12) **United States Patent**
**Sweeney et al.**

(10) **Patent No.: US 8,145,278 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Mar. 27, 2012**

(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RINGTONE SHUFFLE**

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( * ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 601 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/002,462**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 17, 2007**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2009/0156265 A1 Jun. 18, 2009

(51) **Int. Cl.**
***H04B 1/38*** (2006.01)
***H04M 1/00*** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **455/567**; 455/414.1; 455/418; 455/466; 455/419; 455/556.1; 455/41.2; 709/201; 707/101

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 455/567, 455/414.1, 418, 466, 419, 566, 556.1, 41.2; 709/201; 707/101
See application file for complete search history.

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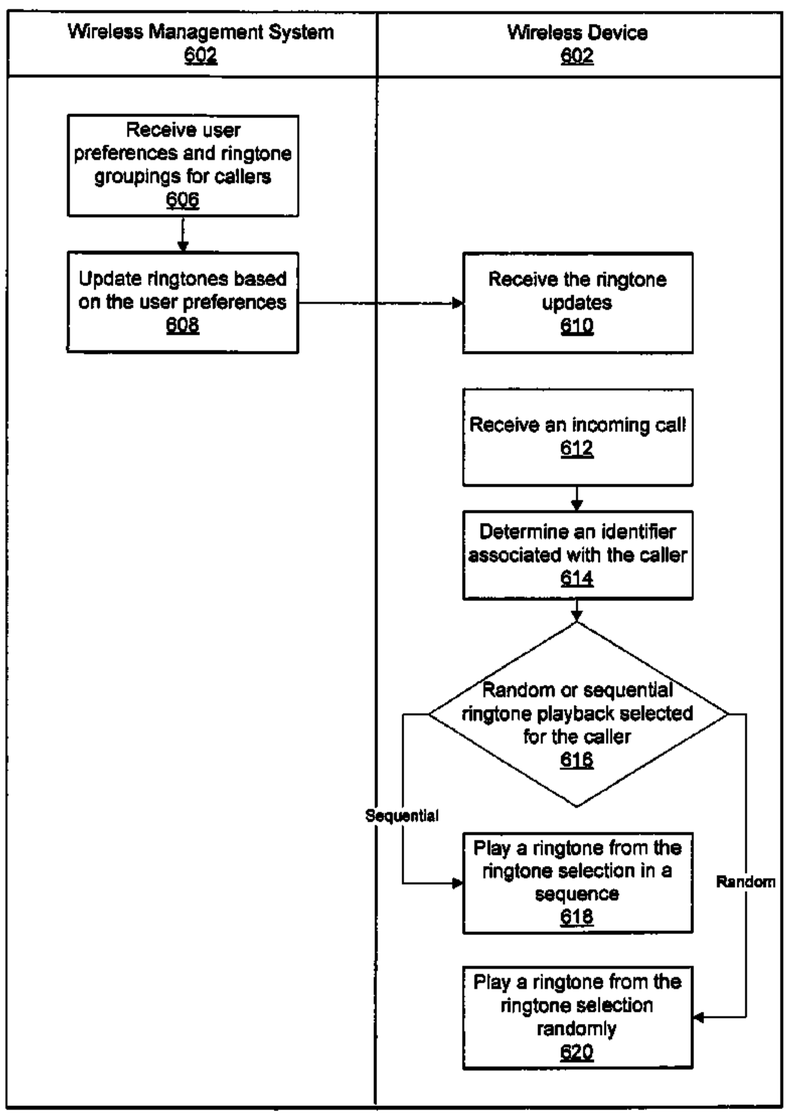
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system and method for shuffling ringtones. An identifier associated with a calling party is received. A selection of ringtones is received. The identifier is associated with the selection of ringtones. A communication is received from the calling party. Playback of one of the selection of ringtones is initiated on a communications device based on a user preference in response to determining the communication is associated with the identifier.

**19 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets**



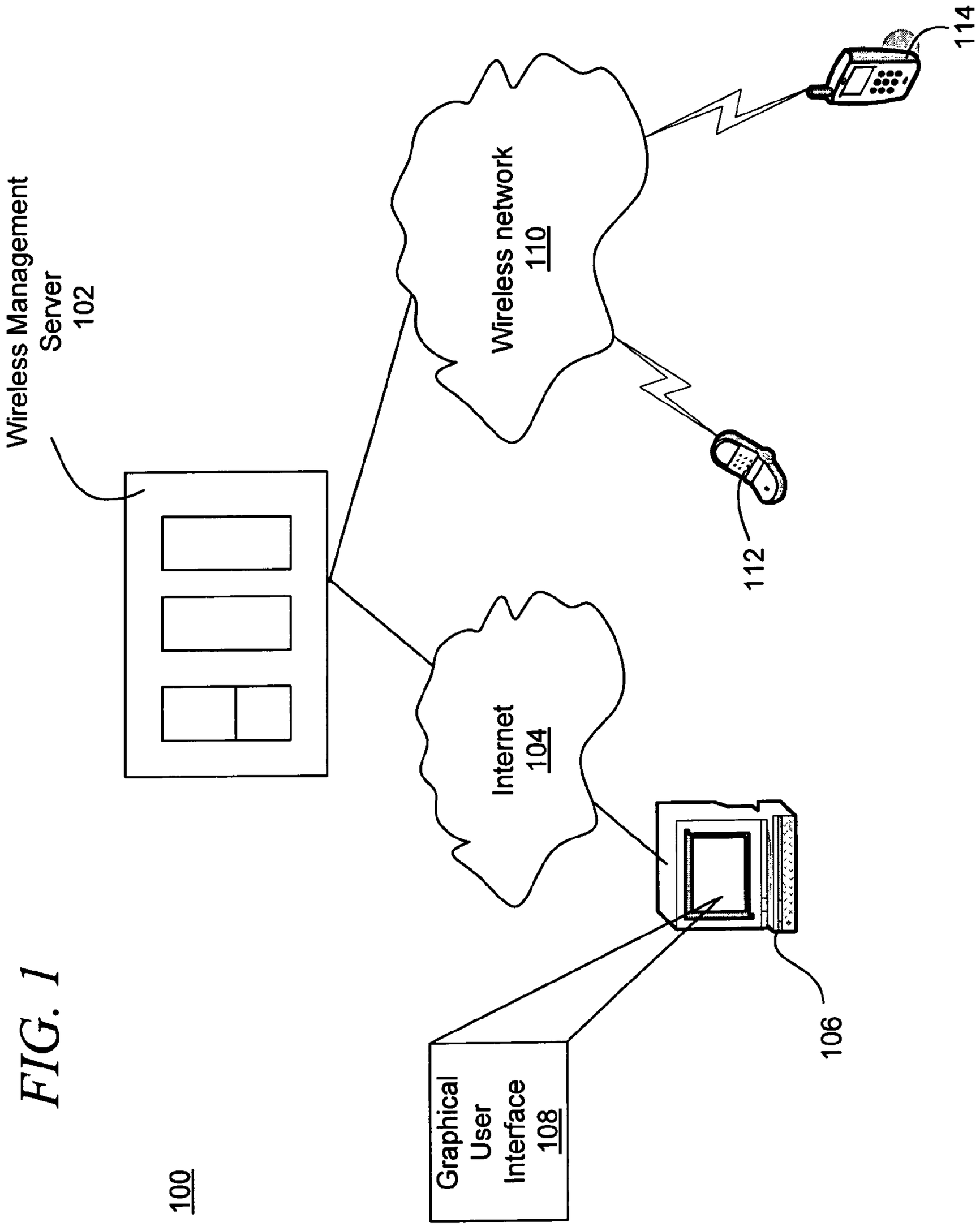

Wireless Management Server 102
Wireless network 110
114
112
Internet 104
106
Graphical User Interface 108
100

FIG. 1

*FIG. 2*

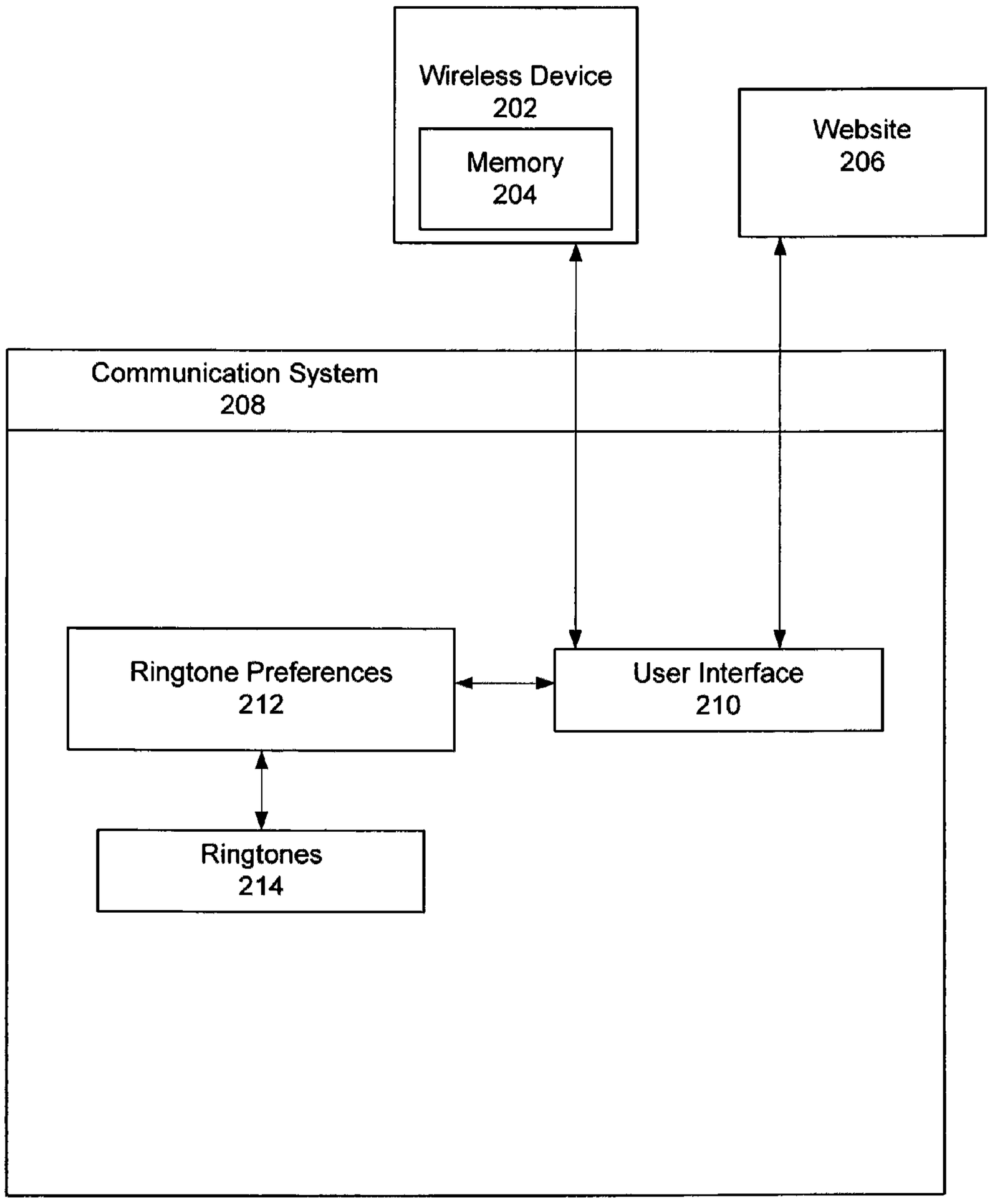

Wireless Device
202
Memory
204
Website
206
Communication System
208
Ringtone Preferences
212
User Interface
210
Ringtones
214

*FIG. 3*

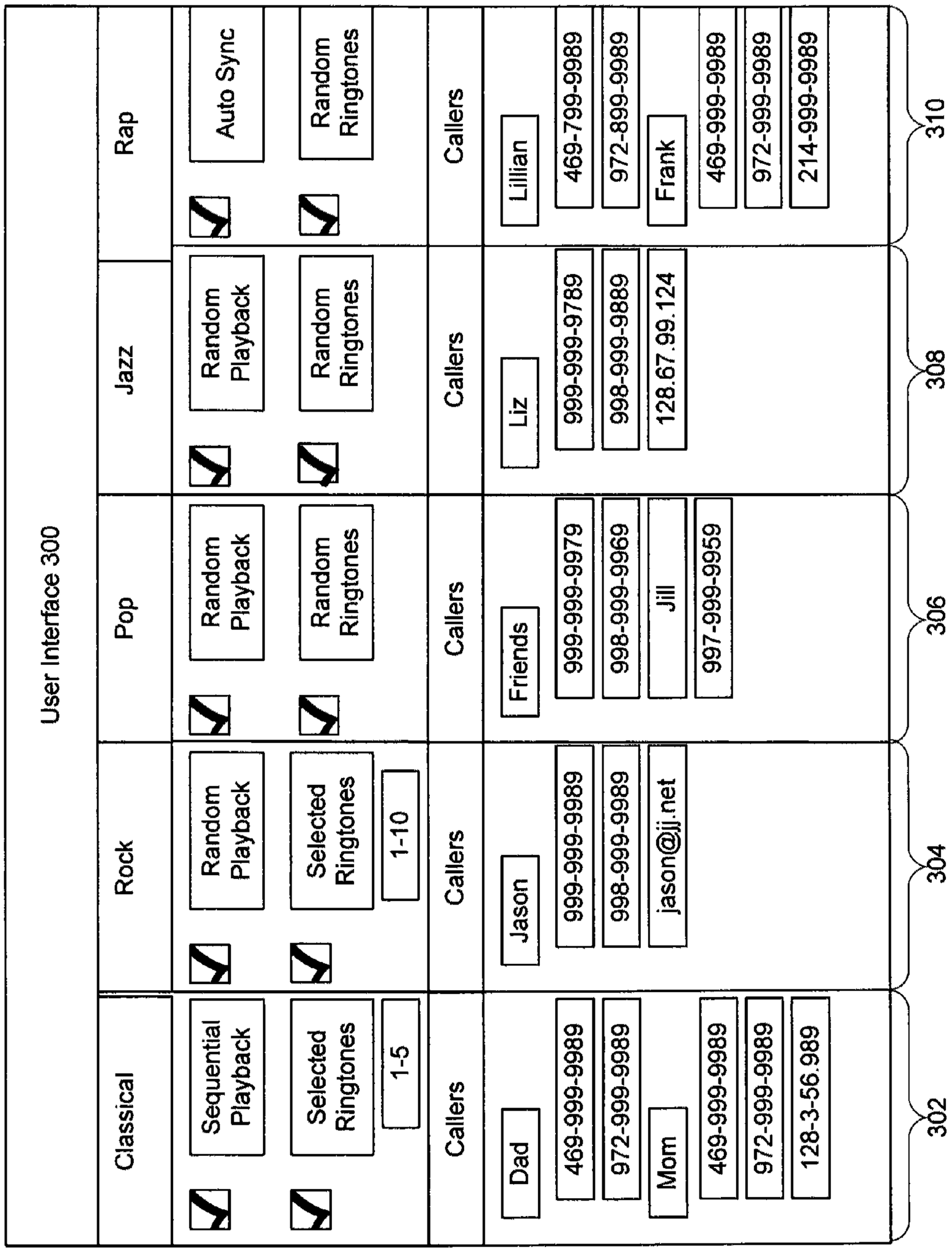

User Interface 300
Rap
Auto Sync
Random Ringtones
Callers
Lillian
469-799-9989
972-899-9989
Frank
469-999-9989
972-999-9989
214-999-9989
310
Jazz
Random Playback
Random Ringtones
Callers
Liz
999-999-9789
998-999-9889
128.67.99.124
308
Pop
Random Playback
Random Ringtones
Callers
Friends
999-999-9979
998-999-9969
Jill
997-999-9959
306
Rock
Random Playback
Selected Ringtones
1-10
Callers
Jason
999-999-9989
998-999-9989
jason@jj.net
304
Classical
Sequential Playback
Selected Ringtones
1-5
Callers
Dad
469-999-9989
972-999-9989
Mom
469-999-9989
972-999-9989
128-3-56.989
302

FIG. 4

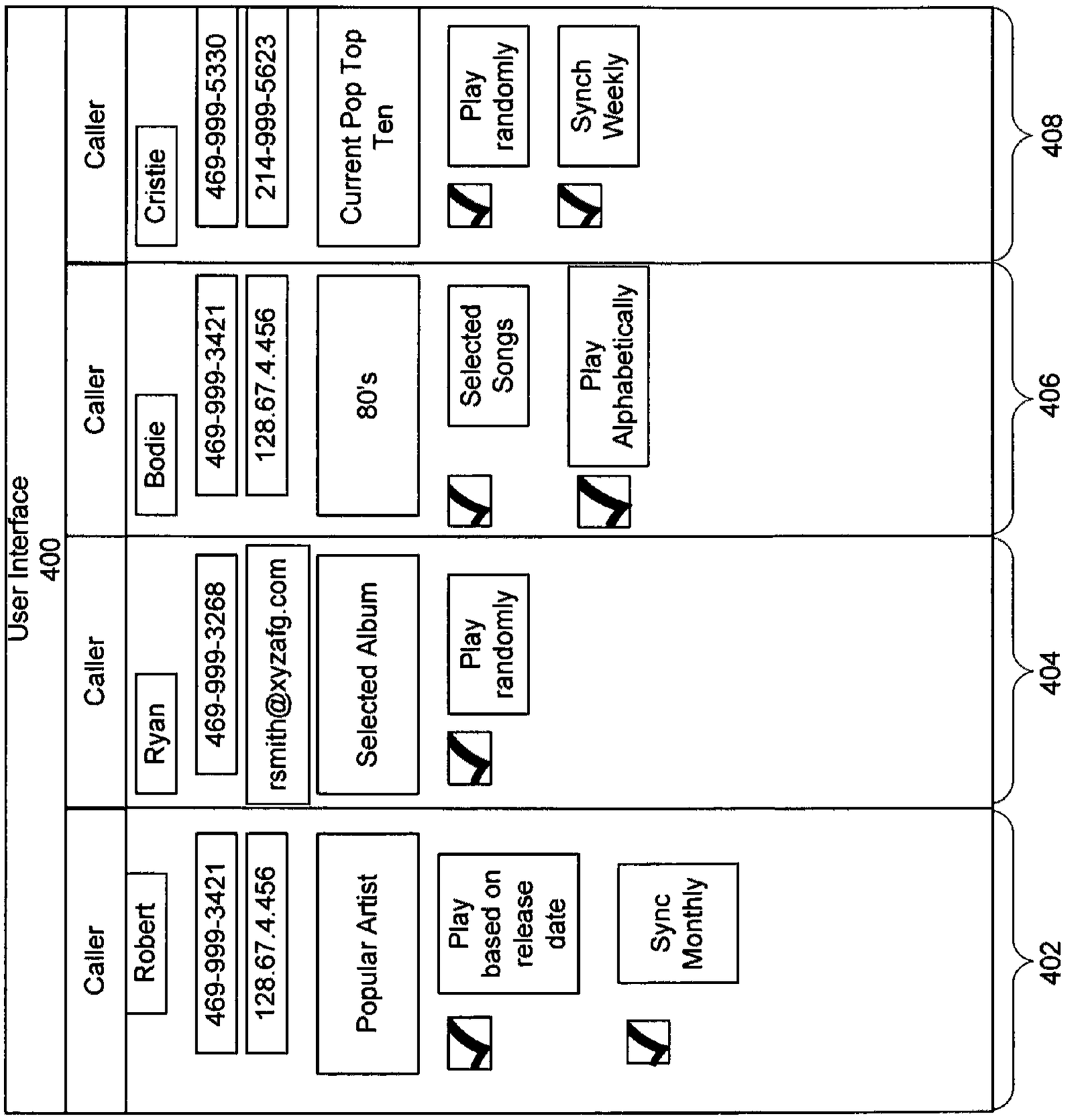

User Interface
400
Caller
Ryan
469-999-3268
rsmith@xyzafg.com
Selected Album
Play randomly
404
Caller
Bodie
469-999-3421
128.67.4.456
80's
Selected Songs
Play Alphabetically
406
Caller
Cristie
469-999-5330
214-999-5623
Current Pop Top Ten
Play randomly
Synch Weekly
408
Caller
Robert
469-999-3421
128.67.4.456
Popular Artist
Play based on release date
Sync Monthly
402

*FIG. 5*

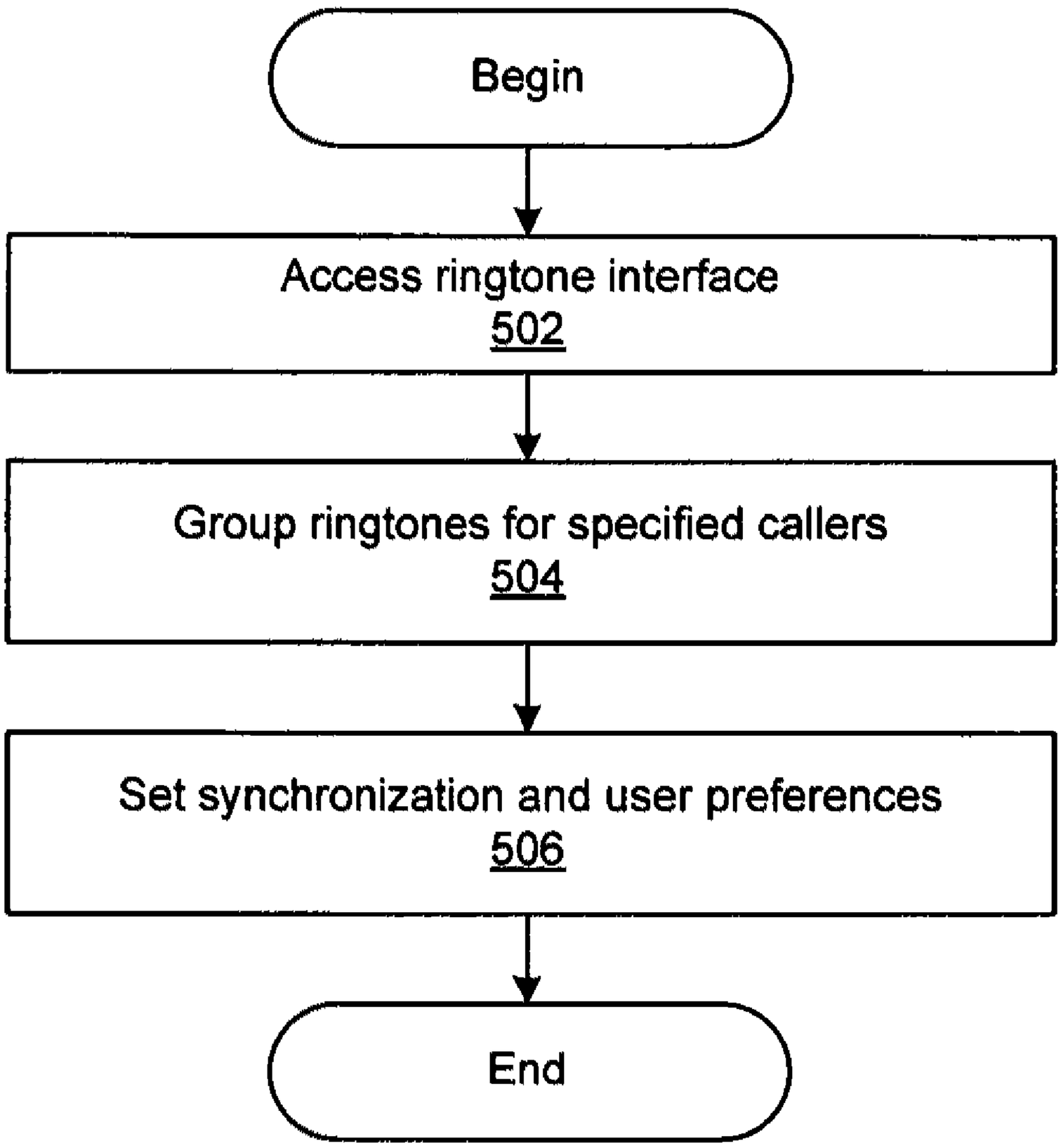
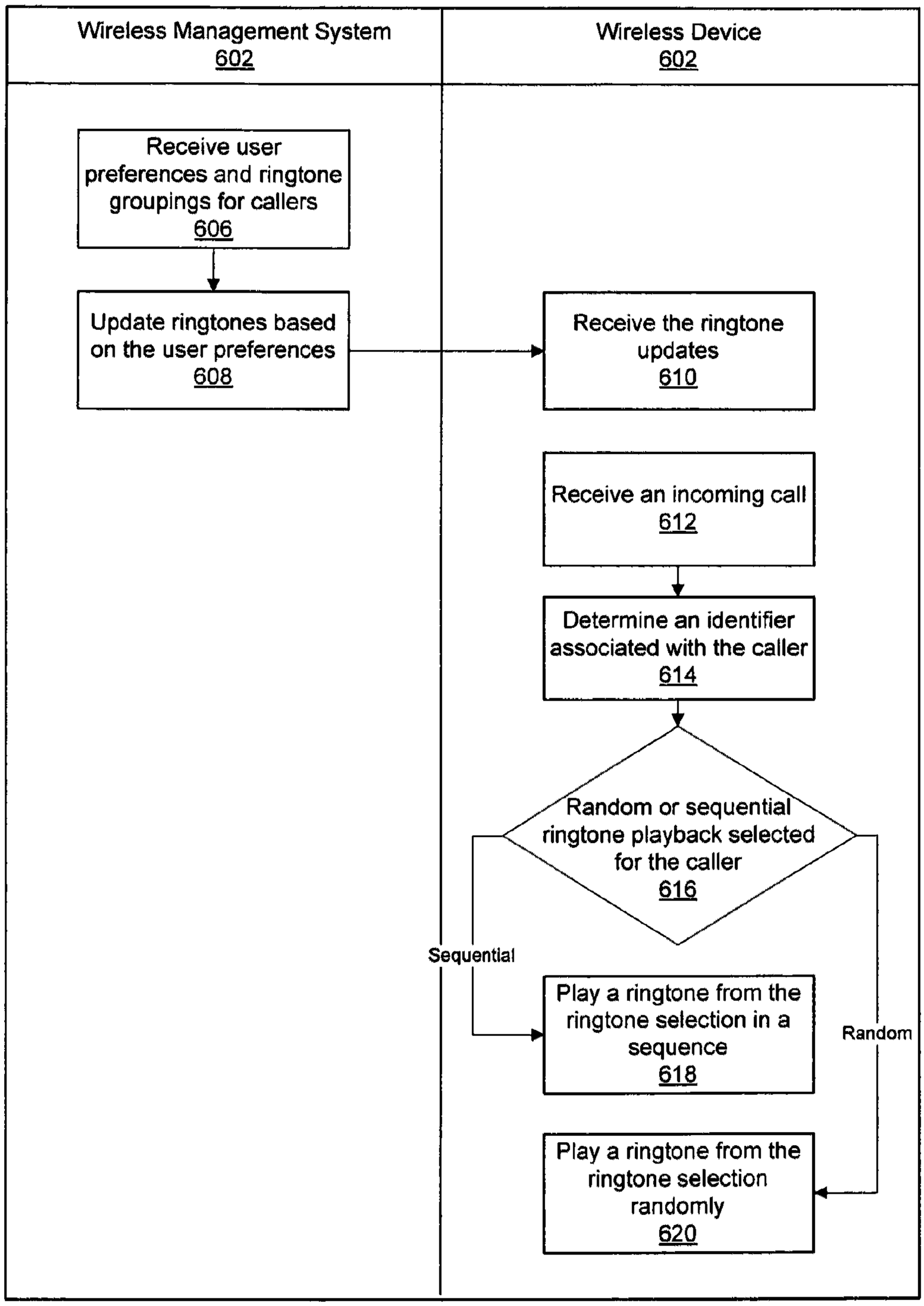

Begin
Access ringtone interface
502
Group ringtones for specified callers
504
Set synchronization and user preferences
506
End

*FIG. 6*


Wireless Management System
602
Wireless Device
602
Receive user preferences and ringtone groupings for callers
606
Update ringtones based on the user preferences
608
Receive the ringtone updates
610
Receive an incoming call
612
Determine an identifier associated with the caller
614
Random or sequential ringtone playback selected for the caller
616
Sequential
Random
Play a ringtone from the ringtone selection in a sequence
618
Play a ringtone from the ringtone selection randomly
620

# SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RINGTONE SHUFFLE

## BACKGROUND

The use of wireless devices has grown nearly exponentially in recent years. The growth is fueled by improved technologies and wireless communication protocols. Many users have come to depend on wireless devices as their sole or main form of communication. In many cases, these users seek to customize the features and service of their wireless device to best meet their respective needs. One way in which people customize their phone is through ringtones.

A ringtone or ring tone is the sound made by a telephone indicating a call or communication is incoming. The term, however, is most often used to refer to the customizable sounds available on mobile phones. This facility was originally provided so that people would be able to determine when their phone was ringing when in the company of other mobile phone owners. In many instances, a user may specify a song, quote, sound, rhythm, or other element to indicate a call or other communication is incoming. In some cases, a user may specify separate ringtones for individuals that frequently call the user. Based on the ringtone played at the time a communication is received, the user may be able to determine who is calling without looking at the caller identification information or answering the phone. Unfortunately, in many cases updating or changing ringtones may be difficult or require more effort than a user is willing to spend. As a result, a user may quickly tire of the ringtones he or she has chosen and instead select to cancel the ringtone service or not use ringtones.

## SUMMARY

One embodiment includes a system and method for shuffling ringtones. An identifier associated with a calling party may be received. A selection of ringtones may be received. The identifier may be associated with the selection of ringtones. A communication may be received from the calling party. Playback of one of the selection of ringtones may be initiated on a communications device based on a user preference in response to determining the communication is associated with the identifier.

Another embodiment includes a system for shuffling ringtones. The system may include a server in communication with a user interface and a wireless device. The user interface may be configured to receive one or more identifiers associated with a calling party, and associate the one or more identifiers with a selection of ringtones. The system may also include a wireless device configured to communicate with the server through a wireless network. The wireless device may receive an incoming call, and play one of the selection of ringtones based on a user preference in response to determining the communication is associated with the identifier.

Yet another embodiment includes a wireless device configured for ringtone shuffle. The wireless device may include a processor for executing a set of instructions. The wireless device may also include a memory for storing the set of instructions. The set of instructions may be configured to receive an identifier associated with a calling party, associate the identifier with a selection of ringtones, receive a communication from the calling party, and play one of the selection of ringtones on a communications device based on user preferences in response to determining the communication is associated with the identifier.



## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Illustrative embodiments of the present invention are described in detail below with reference to the attached drawing figures, which are incorporated by reference herein and wherein:

FIG. **1** is a pictorial representation of a wireless management system in accordance with the illustrative embodiment;

FIG. **2** is a block diagram of a system for configuring ringtones in accordance with an illustrative embodiment;

FIG. **3** is a representation of a graphical user interface for configuring a ringtone portfolio in accordance with an illustrative embodiment;

FIG. **4** is a representation of a graphical user interface for configuring a ringtone portfolio in accordance with an illustrative embodiment;

FIG. **5** is a flowchart of a process for associating ringtones with callers in accordance with an illustrative embodiment; and

FIG. **6** is a flowchart of a process for playing a ringtone from a ringtone portfolio in accordance with an illustrative embodiment.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a pictorial representation of a wireless management system in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. The wireless management system **100** of FIG. **1** includes a wireless management server **102**, Internet **104**, a remote client **106**, a graphical user interface (GUI) **108**, a wireless network **110**, and wireless devices **112** and **114**.

The wireless management server **102** may be a single component or may be multiple interconnected devices as shown in the embodiment of FIG. **1**. The wireless management server **102** may include multiple servers, switches, intelligent network devices, computing devices, components and corresponding software for performing the functions of a mobile switching center (MSC), wireless access network, switching network, and/or wireless public exchange. The wireless management server **102** may include an authentication space. The authentication space is a server or partition of a server designated for access by one or more users. The wireless management system **100** may communicate with any number of remote clients through the Internet **104**.

The wireless management server **102** may perform configuration and changes for the wireless network **106** and devices in communication with the wireless network **110**, such as wireless devices **112** and **114**. For example, the wireless device **112** and **114** may request services, features, files, or other elements from the wireless management server **102** through the wireless network **110**. As described, the user may download a ringtone portfolio to be associated with one or more callers or communicating parties. As used herein, a person or device that communicates with a user or receiving party is generically referred to as a calling party or caller. The wireless management server **102** may act as a gateway, proxy, Centrex, or interface into the wireless systems. In particular, the wireless network broadcasts wireless signals to the wireless devices **112** and **114**. The wireless network **110** may use any number of broadcast transceivers, switches, hubs, routers, communications lines, and servers in addition to the wireless management server **102** to send and receive communications.

The wireless devices **112** and **114**, may be any type of wireless devices including cellular phones, a Blackberry®, personal digital assistants (PDA), laptops, evolution data optimized (EDO) cards, multi-mode devices, and other wire-

less communications elements. The wireless network may use any number of wireless communication formats including, but not limited to code division multiple access (CDMA), global system for mobile (GSM) communications, time domain multiple access (TDMA), WiFi, and WiMAX. The wireless management server specifies how and when the wireless devices **112** and **114** communicate with other devices and other wireless networks, publicly switched networks, data networks, such as the Internet, and other public and private communications networks that interact with the wireless network **110**.

The wireless management server **102**, the wireless network **110**, and the remote client **106** may communicate using a wired or wireless connection. For example, the remote client **106** may be connected to the wireless management server **102** by a fiber optic connection, Ti, cable, DSL, satellite, high-speed trunk, or wireless connection. The wireless management server **102** and the remote client **106** may communicate using any number of communications protocols. In one embodiment, the communication is a common channel signaling system 7 (SS7). SS7 refers to the exchange of information between communications components required to provide and maintain service. The communications may also be based on transmission control protocol (TCP) and Internet protocol (IP) standards.

The remote client **106** and components of the wireless management server **102** may be an advanced intelligence network (AIN) device. AIN devices allow the wireless management server **102** and remote client **106** to quickly and economically create and modify telecommunication services provided through the wireless network **110** for the users. For example, the wireless management server **102** may update ringtones synchronized to the wireless devices **112** and **114** based on information received from the remote client **106**. The wireless management server **102** may be operated by a wireless service provider or other communications service provider

A user may access the graphical user interface **108** in order to manage ringtone selections, associations, and playback for one or more of the wireless devices **112** and **114**. A user may be first required to provide a secure identifier, such as a user name, password, or other authentication code or hardware interface that verifies that the user is authorized to make ringtone changes for the specified wireless device **112** and **114**. This authentication information may be used to create a secured or unsecured connection between the remote client **106** and the wireless management server **102**. The secure connection may be a virtual private network tunnel, an encrypted connection, firewall, or other form of secured communications link.

Once connected, the user may use the options, screens, and modules of the graphical user interface **108** to create ringtone selections, edit user preferences, select ringtones, and perform other tasks allowed within the authentication space. The authentication space of the server **118** is configured so that the remote client **106** may only make changes to wireless devices controlled by the authentication space **124**. In one embodiment, the graphical user interface is a web page interface provided by the wireless management server **102**. Wireless devices may also be connected to the remote client **106** using an electronic interface to identify, register and configure the wireless device.

FIG. **2** is a block diagram of a system for configuring ringtones in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. A system **200** for configuring ringtones may include numerous elements including a wireless device **202** and memory **204**, a website **206**, and a communication system **208**.

The communication system **208** may further include software modules, applications, or hardware including a user interface **210**, ringtone preferences **212**, and ringtones **214**. The wireless device **202** is a particular implementation of the wireless device **102** of FIG. **1**. The website **206** is a particular implementation of the graphical user interface **108** of FIG. **1**. The communication system **208** is a particular implementation of the wireless management server **102** of FIG. **1**. The communication system **200** may allow a user to establish preferences or otherwise configure the wireless device **202** or other communications device to play or implement ringtones based on incoming communications.

In one embodiment, the user may establish the ringtone preferences **212** and ringtones **214** by accessing the communication system **208** through the wireless device **202** or the user interface **210**. In another embodiment, the elements of the communication system **208** may be stored and implemented from the memory **204** of the wireless device **202**. For example, all the ringtone preferences **212** and ringtones may be stored locally on the wireless device **202** so that communications are not required between the wireless device **202** and the communication system **208** in order to implement the features and processes herein described. In yet another embodiment, the user may access the website **206** or other interface in order to establish the ringtone preferences **212** and the ringtones **214** that are played by the wireless device **202**.

As previously described, the system **200** may be used to establish ringtone portfolio groupings or selections that may be played based on communications from one or more callers. The system **200** may allow the user to associate an identifier for each caller for determining which ringtone selection or grouping are to be played based on a incoming communication from the caller. The user interface **210** is an interface for receiving configurations, commands, data, or other information from the wireless device **202** or the website **206**. The wireless device **202** and website **206** may communicate with the user interface **210** through a wireless or wired network connection.

In another embodiment, the user may access the Internet through the wireless device **202** in order to establish a connection with the user interface **210**. The communication between the wireless device **202** and the website **206** with the user interface **210** may implemented through a secured connection or may require authentication, such as a user name, password, key identifiers, or other security information, in order to ensure that only an authenticated user is able to access the communication system **208**.

The communication system **208** may be a server, mobile switching center, intelligent network device, switch, or other communications device used by a communication service provider to implement ringtone functionality. In one embodiment, the communication system **208** is a server which may include a processor, memory, transceiver, and other computing elements for communicating with the wireless device **202** and the website **206**.

The ringtone preferences **212** are the preferences, instructions, commands, criteria, data or other information that control playback and implementation of the ringtones **214** by the wireless device **202**. In particular, the user interface **210** may provide a graphical display or other interface allowing the user to visually, graphically, textually, or audibly set the preferences for the wireless device **202**. Particular implementations of the user interface **210** are described in FIG. **3** and FIG. **4**.

The ringtone preferences **212** set the type, order, amount, classification, content and other configuration of the ring-

tones **214**. In one embodiment, the ringtone preferences **212** may be configured to automatically upload the ringtones **214** to the memory **204** of the wireless device **202** once the changes or configurations are made. In another embodiment, the ringtone preferences **212** may establish a synchronization time or update period for which the wireless device **202** automatically connects to the communication system **208** in order to update the ringtones **214** and/or the ringtone preferences **212**.

In one example, the user may configure the ringtone preferences **212** to play a particular '80's rock band when the user's brother calls. The ringtones **214** included in the '80's rock band may be personally selected from the wireless device **202** or they may be randomly selected by the communication system **208** based on the ringtone preferences **212**. The ringtone preferences **212** may be configured to randomly select an '80's rock song as a ringtone that is automatically uploaded bi-weekly to the wireless device **202** and played from the memory **204** anytime the user's brother calls or otherwise communicates with the wireless device **202**. The ringtones **214** may be set to play any portion of a ringtone. In one embodiment, a different portion of a song may be played as a ringtone each time that ringtone is used in order to further avoid repetition in ringtone playback. For example, a ringtone selection for the user's mother may be set to play a portion of the top five country songs from the year the user's mother graduated from high school. The portion of the song played as a ringtone may vary each time so that different portions of the top five country songs are played until the ringtone selection is automatically or manually updated by the user.

In another embodiment, the ringtones **214** may include a ringtone library or access to another server, website, or device storing or serving ringtones or other information from which the user may select particular songs, genres, composers, artists, CDs, albums, time periods, eras, or other criteria for manually or automatically select or create ringtones. For example, the user may select ten classical songs from Mozart portions of which are to be played as ringtones anytime the user's grandmother calls. A different set of ten classical pieces of music from Bach may be played whenever the user's grandmother text messages or otherwise sends an electronic message. The ringtone preferences **212** may be set to sequentially play the ringtones **214** or to play them randomly or in another order specified by the user. For example, the user may set the ringtones **214** for the user's manager to play Beatles music in the order the songs were released. The ringtone preferences **212** allow the user the flexibility to set the preferences for playback of the ringtones **214** so that the user does not hear the same ringtone over and over again. Additionally, the user is encouraged to learn new music, songs, or otherwise enjoy the playback of ringtones **214** instead of hearing the same ringtones played repeatedly for the same callers.

The communication system **208** may include any number of computing elements that are not explicitly called out including a processor, memory, bus, transceivers, interfaces, and other hardware and software components. The processor may be a computer processor, or other processing device or element used by the communication system **400** to execute instructions, modules, logic, or otherwise process data.

The memory may be a static or dynamic storage medium, such as static random access memory, flash memory, or dynamic random access memory. However, the memory may be a hard disk, read-only memory, or other suitable form or combination of volatile or nonvolatile memory. The memory may store user preferences, data, information, applications, and instructions for execution by the processor to implement the ringtone shuffle functions of the communications system **208**. The communication service provider operation the communication system **208** may ensure that a license or other rights is acquired to use the ringtones derived from copyrighted works by the service provider or by the user.

FIG. **3** is a representation of a graphical user interface for configuring a ringtone portfolio in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. FIG. **3** is a particular implementation of the user interface **210** that may be displayed by the website **206** or the wireless device **202**, all of FIG. **2**. The user interface may include any number of buttons, icons, lists, screens, columns, sections or other graphical selection elements. The user interface **300** includes sections **302**, **304**, **306**, **308** and **310**. In one embodiment, the user interface **300** may be part of a web page or web page graphic displayed to the user through as website on a wireless device, communications device, or computing device.

The user interface **300** may control how the ringtones are played to one or more callers. The example shown in FIG. **3** is for particular types of ringtones associated with music which may include classical, rock pop, jazz and rap. Any number of types of music in addition to those illustrated in the user interface **300** may also be utilized, including user defined or customized categories that are defined by the user, such as comedy routines, movie clips, and user created instrumentals or sounds.

As shown in section **302**, the user may select an identifier that is linked to a number of ringtones. The identifier may be a phone number, IP address, user name, nickname, caller ID information, e-mail address, or other similar information that may be electronically determined or verified. The identifier for one or more callers may be linked with selected ringtones or randomly selected ringtones. One or more callers may be associated with each selection or grouping of ringtones. Additionally, any number of identifiers may be selected for each caller. For example, the user's father may be identified by a work number and a cell phone number, whereas, the user's mother may be identified by a home number, a cell phone number, and an IP address from which she may make calls to the user. The number of callers or identifiers for each of the callers that may be linked with a selection or portfolio of ringtones is not limited.

As shown in section **304**, the user may select to randomly play any of ten selected ringtones when Jason calls or communicates using any of the listed identifiers or numbers. As a result when Jason calls the user, one of the ten selected ringtones is played to the user. The user interface **300** may also be used to list available ringtones by any category, type, classification, or other searchable criteria. In one embodiment, the user may be able to establish or create customized ringtones using music, quotes, sounds or other electronic materials.

As shown in section **306**, random pop songs may be played whenever anyone within the friends category calls the user. As shown, the friends category may include four separate identifiers. The user interface **300** allows the user to customize the ringtones that are received and in some cases, the user may be required to guess who is calling based on the type of music played. For example, if the user receives a call and a jazz ringtone begins to play, the user may be able to determine that Liz is calling based on the information in section **308**. However, if a pop ringtone begins to play, the user knows that any one of the people, individuals or wireless devices indicated by identifiers in section **306** may be calling the user. The result is a fun way to guess or determine who is calling the user and to make ringtones coming from the phone much more entertaining and fun.

As shown in section **310**, the ringtones may also be set to automatically synchronize to the wireless device or communications device. As a result, the ringtones for section **310** are automatically uploaded to the wireless device for playback. The synchronization may occur manually based on a selection from the user or automatically based on user preferences. For example, the user may establish that the rap ringtones linked with Lillian and Frank are to be selected from a top ten list generated weekly. As a result, the top ten ringtones associated with rap songs may be uploaded to the wireless device for playback when a call is received from any of the identifiers listed in section **310**.

FIG. **4** is a representation of a graphical user interface for configuring a ringtone portfolio in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. FIG. **4** illustrates another embodiment of a user interface **400**. The user interface may include sections **402**, **404**, **406** and **408**. As before, the user may link any number of callers or identifiers with the selected ringtones. For example, as shown in section **402**, anytime Robert calls and the identifiers listed are recognized by the wireless device, a ringtone associated with the popular artist is played based on the release date. Similarly, the ringtones played by the popular artist may be synchronized or updated daily, weekly, monthly, or as specified by the user. For example, the ringtone selections used one month may be replaced by all new ringtones selections the next month that are still sang by the popular artist.

As shown in section **404**, the ringtones may also be generated from a selected album, such as music, comedy, instrumental, or other album collection. The ringtones may be played randomly when a communication is received from one of the phone numbers or e-mail addresses as shown.

As shown in section **406**, the ringtones may be selected from an era, such as the '80's. As a result, the selected songs may be played in alphabetical order anytime the caller communicates with the user. The selected songs may also be manually picked by the user using the user interface **400** or another page or access point available from the user interface **400**.

In section **408**, the ringtones are based on the current pop top ten. For example, the ringtones may be selected from a list of the top ten most popular songs as determined by the communication service provider or other third party. The current pop top ten ringtones may be synchronized weekly and played randomly from the list whenever the listed caller calls the user. The section **408** may also specify alternatively listings, rating, or tracking for specifying ringtones. For example, the user may select to play the top five songs.

FIG. **5** is a flowchart of a process for associating ringtones with callers in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. The process of FIG. **5** may be implemented by a user utilizing a wireless device or other user interface, or another computing device to implement various ringtone features.

The process begins by first accessing a ringtone interface (step **502**). As previously described, the ringtone interface may be a web page, touch screen of a wireless device, or other interface configured to receive feedback from a user. The user may be required to provide a password or access the ringtone interface from a particular wireless device.

Next, the user may group ringtones for specified callers (step **504**). During step **504**, the user may create ringtone portfolios or selections of ringtones that are to be played anytime a specified caller communicates with the user. The ringtones may be grouped with the callers using identifiers, which may include phone numbers, e-mail addresses, user names, IP addresses, caller identification information, or other data or information.

Next, the user sets synchronization and user preferences (step **506**). During step **506**, the user may set the ringtones to be automatically uploaded or downloaded to a wireless device. The user may also set the preferences that control playback of the ringtones, including how and when the ringtones are managed, selected and played. For example, a new set of ringtones may be set to automatically synchronize or download to the wireless device every other day. In another embodiment, the ringtones may be changed from one grouping to the next grouping based on the user preferences on a monthly basis.

FIG. **6** is a flowchart of a process for playing a ringtone from a ringtone portfolio in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. The process of FIG. **6** may be implemented by a wireless management system **602** and a wireless device **604**.

The wireless management system **602** receives user preferences and ringtone groupings for callers (step **606**). The wireless management system **602** updates ringtones based on the user preferences (step **608**). The updates of step **608** may occur based on criteria specified by the user in the user preferences. Alternatively, the ringtones may be updated based on a program or set feature of the ringtones service provided to the user.

Next, the wireless device **604** receives the ringtone updates (step **610**). As a result, the wireless device **604** is periodically updated with new ringtones as selected by the user, or alternatively, the user may set the user preferences to receive new ringtones only when selected or manually indicated by the user using the wireless device **604**. Although the wireless device **604** is described in FIG. **6**, any number of communications devices including landline phones, voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephones or other computing and communications devices may be used to implement the steps and process of FIG. **6**.

The wireless device **604** may at anytime receive an incoming call (step **612**). The incoming call may also be a phone call, text message, e-mail, instant chat, or other real-time or discreet electronic communication received by the wireless device **604**. The wireless device **604** determines an identifier associated with the caller (step **614**). The identifier may be any information or data that links the caller with a grouping or one or more ringtones. In one embodiment, the wireless device **604** may be unable to link the caller with an identifier or other associated information. As a result, a default ringtone or ringtone grouping may be played to the user or a ringtone indicating that the identifier is not recognized. The user may set a ringtone grouping for callers that have identifiers that are not recognized by the wireless device **602**.

The wireless device **604** determines whether random or sequential ringtone playback is selected for the caller (step **616**). Random or sequential ringtone playback may be selected by the user in the user preferences. If sequential playback is selected, the wireless device **604** plays a ringtone from the ringtone selection in a sequence (step **618**). The sequence may be established by the user and user preferences. For example, the sequence may be based on release date, track number, alphabet, user rating, or other information or criteria selected by the user. If the determination of step **616** is for random playback the wireless device **604** plays a ringtone from the ringtone selection randomly (step **620**). As a result, the ringtones are played randomly whenever the caller calls or communicates with the wireless device **604**.

The previous detailed description is of a small number of embodiments for implementing the invention and is not intended to be limiting in scope. The following claims set forth a number of the embodiments of the invention disclosed with greater particularity.

What is claimed:

**1**. A method for shuffling ringtones, the method comprising:

receiving a selection of an identifier associated with a communicating party on a receiving device;

receiving a selection of a plurality of ringtones;

associating the identifier with the plurality of ringtones on the receiving device in response to user input;

receiving a communication from the communicating party; and

initiating playback of one of the plurality of ringtones on the receiving device based on user preferences in response to determining the communication is associated with the identifier, the user preferences enable the selection of the plurality of ringtones to be played (1) randomly, and (2) sequentially.

**2**. The method according to claim **1**, wherein the identifier is any of a caller identification, phone number, email address, user name, and IP address.

**3**. The method according to claim **1**, wherein the selection of the plurality of ringtones identifies a performance artist.

**4**. The method according to claim **1**, wherein the selection of the plurality of ringtones identifies a music genre.

**5**. The method according to claim **1**, further comprising:

automatically updating the selection of the plurality of ringtones based on a criteria, the updating is enabled to be performed from ringtones on the receiving device and ringtones available through a network connection.

**6**. The method according to claim **5**, wherein automatically updating further comprises:

downloading the plurality of ringtones to the communications device at a specified interval.

**7**. The method according to claim **1**, further comprising:

playing one of the plurality of ringtones for a call, email, text message, and other electronic messages associated with the identifier according to the user preferences.

**8**. The method according to claim **1**, wherein the user preferences are configured to play a different portion of each of the plurality of ringtones for a plurality of communications including the communication until all portions of the plurality of ringtones have been played thereby avoiding repetition.

**9**. The method according to claim **1**, wherein the plurality of ringtones are played sequentially in a user-selected order or in an automatically determined order.

**10**. The method according to claim **1**, wherein the plurality of ringtones includes one or more of an artist, songwriter, composer, compact disk, album, genre, era, rating, chart record, musical category, and user-defined category.

**11**. A communication system for shuffling ringtones, the system comprising:

a server in communication with a user interface and a receiving wireless device, the user interface configured to receive one or more identifiers associated with a communicating party, and associate the one or more identifiers with a selection of a plurality of ringtones;

the receiving wireless device configured to communicate with the server through a wireless network, wherein the receiving wireless device receives a communication, and plays one of the plurality of ringtones based on user preferences in response to determining the communication is associated with the identifier, the user preferences enable the selection of the plurality of ringtones to be played (1) randomly, and (2) sequentially.

**12**. The system according to claim **11**, further comprising:

a database in communication with the server, the database configured to store and update the selection of the plurality of ringtones utilizing one or more criteria, wherein the plurality of ringtones and the user preferences entered through the user interface are uploaded to the receiving wireless device.

**13**. The system according to claim **11**, wherein the one or more identifiers and the selection of the plurality of ringtones are associated and then synchronized between the server and the receiving wireless device based on input received from the user.

**14**. The system according to claim **11**, wherein the plurality of ringtones includes ringtones separated by any of artist, album, era, and music type.

**15**. The system according to claim **11**, wherein the selection of the plurality of ringtones is enabled to be played for communications including a phone call, text message, email message, chat message, and voicemail message, and wherein the user preferences are configured to play a different portion of each of the plurality of ringtones for the communication until all portions of the plurality of ringtones have been played thereby avoiding repetition.

**16**. A wireless device configured for ringtone shuffle, said device comprising:

a processor for executing a set of instructions; and

a memory for storing the set of instructions, wherein the set of instructions are configured to receive an identifier associated with a communicating party, associate the identifier with a selection of a plurality of ringtones, receive a communication from the communicating party, and play one of the plurality of ringtones on a communications device based on user preferences in response to determining the communication is associated with the identifier, wherein the user preferences enable the selection of the plurality of ringtones to be played (1) randomly, and (2) sequentially, and wherein the user preferences are configured to play a different portion of each of the plurality of ringtones for communications from the communicating party until all portions of the plurality of ringtones have been played thereby avoiding repetition.

**17**. The wireless device according to claim **16**, wherein the set of instructions:

automatically updates the selection of the plurality of ringtones through a communications network as specified by the user preferences.

**18**. The wireless device according to claim **16**, wherein the communication is a phone call, and wherein each of a plurality of contacts and associated identifiers are associated with one or more selections of ringtones.

**19**. The wireless device according to claim **16**, wherein the selection of the plurality of ringtones is enabled to be played for communications including a phone call, text message, chat message, email message, picture message, and voicemail message.

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